

PERIOD 3 REGIONAL AND TRANSREGIONAL INTERACTIONS, c. 600 CE-1450 CE

Important People

Ibn Battuta	Emperor Wendi	Otto I	Khubilai Khan
Marco Polo	Trung Sisters	Muhammad Ibn Abdullah	Columbus
Xuanzang	Emperor Justinian	Ibn Sina	Vasco da Gama
An Lushan	Theodora	al-Ghazali	Timur
Murasaki Shikibu	Charlemagne	Chinggis Khan (Temujin)	Emperor Yongle
Shotoku Taishi	Vladimir, Prince of Kiev	Ghazan Khan	Zheng He
Pope Urban II	Modun	Hulegu Khan	

Important States:

Umayyad Caliphate	Aztec	Empire of Mali
Abbasid Caliphate	Inca	Delhi Sultanate
Tang Dynasty	Mongol Khanates	Byzantine Empire
Song Dynasty	Medieval Europe	Medieval Japan

Unit 3: AP World History Key Concept Themes - *Must Know*

The AP World History Exam will test your ability to use the historical thinking skills to answer questions and problems relating to the key concepts and the way these concepts are connected through the course themes. Here's a quick reminder of the specific skills and themes for this course, followed by the Key Concepts.

Historical Thinking Skills

Using evidence and argumentation
Chronological reasoning, continuity, change over time
Comparison and contextualization
Interpreting and synthesizing historical sources and scholarship

AP World Themes

Human-environmental interaction
Development and interaction of culture
State-building, expansion, and conflict
Creation and influence of economic systems
Development and change of social structures

Period 3: Regional and Transregional Interactions, c. 600 CE to c. 1450 CE

Key Concept 3.1 Expansion and Intensification of Communication and Exchange Networks

Though Afro-Eurasia and the Americas remained separate from each other, this era witnessed a deepening and widening of old and new networks of human interaction within and across regions. The results were unprecedented concentrations of wealth and the intensification of cross-cultural exchanges. Innovations in transportation, state policies and mercantile practices contributed to the expansion and development of commercial networks, which in turn served as conduits for cultural, technological, and biological diffusion within and between various societies. Pastoral or nomadic groups played a key role in creating and sustaining these networks. Expanding networks fostered greater inter-regional borrowing while at the same time sustaining regional diversity. Significantly, Islam, a major religion, emerged at the start of this period and spread quickly through practices of trade, warfare, and diffusion characteristic of this period.

I. Improved transportation technologies and commercial practices led to an increased volume of trade, and expanded the geographical range of existing and newly-active trade networks.

A. Existing trade routes flourished and promoted the growth of powerful new trading cities.

**required examples:*

- the Silk Road
- the Mediterranean Sea
- trans-Saharan
- the Indian Ocean basins

possible illustrative examples:

- Novgorod
- Timbuktu
- Swahili city-states
- Hangzhou
- Calicut
- Baghdad,
- Melaka
- Venice
- in the Americas, Tenochtitlan or Cahokia

B. New trade routes between Mesoamerica and the Andes developed.

C. The growth of inter-regional trade in luxury goods was encouraged by significant innovations in previously-existing transportation and commercial technologies, including more sophisticated caravan organization, use of the compass, astrolabe, and larger ship designs in sea travel, and new forms of credit and monetization

possible illustrative examples:

- *silk and cotton textiles*
- *porcelain, spices, precious metals and gems*
- *slaves and exotic animals*
- *caravanserais and camel saddles*
- *bills of exchange, credit, checks*
- *banking house*

D. Commercial growth was also facilitated by state practices trading organizations, and state-sponsored commercial infrastructures like the Grand Canal in China.

possible illustrative examples:

- *minting of coins*
- *paper money*
- *Hanseatic League*

E. The expansion of existing empires facilitated trans-Eurasian trade and communication as new peoples were drawn into their conquerors' economies and trade networks.

*required examples:

- *China,*
- *the Byzantine Empire*
- *the Caliphates*
- *the Mongols*

II. The movement of peoples caused environmental and linguistic effects.

A. The expansion and intensification of long-distance trade routes often depended on peoples' understanding of a particular regional environment and their subsequent technological adaptations to it

possible illustrative examples:

- *the way Scandinavian Vikings used their longboats to travel in coastal and open water as well as rivers and estuaries*
- *the Arabs and Berbers adapted camels to travel across and around the Sahara*
- *central Asian pastoral groups used horses to travel in the steppes*

B. Some migrations had significant environmental impact

*required examples:

- *the migration of the agricultural Bantu-speaking peoples who facilitated transmission of iron technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa*
- *the maritime migrations of the Polynesian peoples who cultivated transplanted foods and domesticated animals as they moved to new islands*

C. Some migrations and commercial contacts led to the diffusion of languages throughout a new region or the emergence of new languages

possible illustrative examples:

- *the spread of Bantu languages, including Swahili*
- *the spread of Turkic and Arabic languages*

III. Cross-cultural exchanges were fostered by the intensification of existing or the creation of new networks of trade and communication.

A. Islam developed in the Arabian peninsula from the interactions among Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians with the local peoples and expanded to many parts of Afro-Eurasia due to military expansion and the activities of merchants and missionaries.

B. In key places along important trade routes, merchants set up diaspora communities where they introduced their own cultural traditions into the indigenous culture

possible illustrative examples:

- *Muslim merchant communities in the Indian Ocean region*
- *Chinese merchant communities in Southeast Asia*
- *Sogdian merchant communities throughout Central Asia*
- *Jewish communities in the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean basin, or along the Silk Roads*

C. The writings of certain inter-regional travelers illustrate both the extent and the limitations of inter-cultural knowledge and understanding.

possible illustrative examples:

- *Ibn Battuta*
- *Marco Polo*
- *Xuanzang*

D. Increased cross-cultural interactions resulted in the diffusion of literary, artistic, and cultural traditions

possible illustrative examples:

- *the influence of Neo-Confucianism and Buddhism in East Asia*
- *Hinduism and Buddhism in Southeast Asia, the influence of Islam in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia*
- *the influence of Toltec/Mexica and Inca traditions in Meso- and*

Andean America

E. Increased cross-cultural interactions also resulted in the diffusion of scientific and technological traditions

possible illustrative examples:

- the influence of Greek and Indian mathematics on Muslim scholars
- the return of Greek science and philosophy to western Europe via Muslim al-Andalus in Iberia
- the spread of printing and gunpowder technologies from East Asia into the Islamic empires and into Western Europe

IV. There was continued diffusion of crops and pathogens throughout the Eastern Hemisphere along the trade routes.

A. New foods and agricultural techniques were adopted in populated areas

possible illustrative examples:

- bananas in Africa
- new rice varieties in East Asia
- the spread of cotton, sugar and citrus throughout Dar-al Islam and the Mediterranean basin

B. The spread of epidemic diseases, including the Black Death, followed the well-established paths of trade and military conquest.

Key Concept 3.2 Continuity and Innovation of State Forms and Their Interactions

State formation in this era demonstrated remarkable continuity, innovation and diversity in various regions. In Afro-Eurasia some states attempted, with differing degrees of success, to preserve or revive imperial structures, while smaller, less-centralized states continued to develop. The expansion of Islam introduced a new concept—the caliphate—to Afro-Eurasian statecraft. Pastoral peoples in Eurasia built powerful and distinctive empires that integrated people and institutions from both the pastoral and agrarian worlds. In the Americas, powerful states developed in both Mesoamerica and the Andean region.

I. Empires collapsed and were reconstituted; in some regions new state forms emerged.

A. Most reconstituted governments following the collapse of empires, including the Byzantine Empire and the Chinese dynasties—Sui, Tang, and Song—combined traditional sources of power and legitimacy with innovations better suited to the current circumstances

possible illustrative examples:

- patriarchy, religion or land-owning elites
- new methods of taxation, tributary systems
- adaptation of religious institutions

B. In some places, new forms of governance emerged, including those developed in various Islamic states, the Mongol Khanates, city-states, and decentralized government (feudalism) in Europe and Japan

possible illustrative examples:

- Abbasids, Muslim Iberia or the Delhi sultanates
- the Italian peninsula
- East Africa
- Southeast Asia
- the Americas

C. Some states synthesized local and borrowed traditions

possible illustrative examples:

- Persian traditions influencing Islamic states
- Chinese traditions influencing Japan

D. In the Americas, as in Afro-Eurasia, state systems expanded in scope and reach: networks of city-states flourished in the Maya region, and, at the end of this period, imperial systems were created by the Mexica (“Aztecs”) and Inca.

II. Inter-regional contacts and conflicts between states and empires encouraged significant technological and cultural transfers, for example between Tang China and the Abbasids, across the Mongol empires and during the Crusades.

Key Concept 3.3 Increased Economic Productive Capacity and Its Consequences

Changes in trade networks resulted from and stimulated increasing productive capacity, with important implications for social and gender structures and environmental processes. Productivity rose in both agriculture and industry. Rising productivity supported population growth and urbanization but also strained environmental resources and at times caused dramatic demographic swings. Shifts in production and the increased volume of trade also stimulated new labor practices, including adaptation of existing patterns of free and coerced labor. Social and gender structures evolved in response to these changes.

I. Innovations stimulated agricultural and industrial production in many regions.

A. Agricultural production increased significantly due to technological innovations

possible illustrative examples:

- Champa rice varieties
- the chinampa field systems
- waru waru raised field cultivation in the Andean areas
- improved terracing techniques
- the horse collar

B. In response to increasing demand in Afro-Eurasia for foreign luxury goods, crops were transported from their indigenous homelands to equivalent climates in other regions.

C. Chinese, Persian, and Indian artisans and merchants expanded their production of textiles and porcelains for export; industrial production of iron and steel expanded in China.

II. The fate of cities varied greatly, with periods of significant decline, and periods of increased urbanization buoyed by rising productivity and expanding trade networks.

A. Factors that contributed to declines of urban areas in this period

- *required examples:
- invasions
 - disease
 - the decline of agricultural productivity
 - the Little Ice Age

B. Factors that contributed to urban revival

- *required examples:
- the end of invasions
 - the availability of safe and reliable transport
 - the rise of commerce
 - the warmer temperatures between 800 and 1300,
 - increased agricultural productivity
 - subsequent rising population, greater availability of labor also contributed to urban growth

C. While cities in general continued to play the roles they had played in the past as governmental, religious and commercial centers, many older cities declined at the same time that numerous new cities took on these established roles.

NOTE: Students should be able to explain the cultural, religious, commercial and governmental function of at least two major cities.

III.Despite significant continuities in social structures and in methods of production, there were also some important changes in labor management and in the effects of religious conversion on gender relations and family life.

A. As in the previous period, there were many forms of labor organization.

- required examples:
- free peasant agriculture
 - nomadic pastoralism
 - craft production and guild organization
 - along with various forms of coerced and unfree labor government imposed labor taxes and military obligations

B. As in the previous period, social structures were shaped largely by class and caste hierarchies. Patriarchy persisted; however, in some areas, women exercised more power and influence, most notably among the Mongols and in West Africa, Japan and Southeast Asia.

C. New forms of coerced labor appeared including serfdom in Europe and Japan and the elaboration of the mit'a in the Inca Empire. Free peasants resisted attempts to raise dues and taxes by staging revolts. The demand for slaves for both military and domestic purposes increased particularly in central Eurasia, parts of Africa and the eastern Mediterranean.

- possible illustrative examples:
- China
 - Byzantine Empire

D. The diffusion of Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and Neo-Confucianism often led to significant changes in gender relations and family structure.